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Contribution to the knowledge of Chrysomelidae (Coleoptera) from Ceylon

by

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With 6 figures

Thanks the kindness of Dr. Cl. Besuchet I got the opportunity to study a small but extremely interesting sample of Chrysomelidae collected in Ceylon by Dr. Cl. Besuchet and Dr. I. Löbl (Geneva Museum of Natural History) during the expedition organised by Mr. R. Mussard. The special methods of collecting allowed to find species which as a rule are absent or very rare in the case of usual methods of collecting. 76 specimens collected belong to 26 species, including 1 genus and 4 species new to science and 3 species firstly registered for Ceylon.

The type specimens are in the Geneve Museum of Natural History, the paratypes of *Scelolanka besucheti* and *Livolia loebli* are also in the author's collection.

Lema (s. str.) **fulvofrontalis** Jac.

Uva: Diyaluma Falls, 400 m., 23. I. 1970, 1 spec.

The single collected specimen corresponds quite well with this species, described from India.

Ceratobasis ceylonensis Jac.

Uva: Inginiyagala, 12. II. 1970, 3 spec.

Cryptocephalus decurio Sffr.

Uva: Inginiyagala, 12. II. 1970, 1 spec.

Pagria ceylonensis Jac.

Central: Kandy, 600 m, 15. I. 1970, 1 spec.

Pagria signata Motsch.

Central: Hatton, 1400 m., 9. II. 1970; Mahaveli Ganga near Kandy, 450 m., 10. II. 1970; Uva; Inginiyagala, 12. II. 1970; Southern: Tissamaharama, 23. I. 1970. Total 10 spec.

Tricliona puncticeps Duv.

North Central: Medawachchiya, 6. II. 1970, 1 spec. First record for Ceylon.

Pachnephorus bretinghami Baly.

Southern: Tissamaharama, 23. I. 1970, 7 spec. First record for Ceylon.

Hyperaxis semifasciata Jac.

Sabaragamuwa; Ratnapura, 20. I. 1970, 1 spec.

Scelolanka gen. nov.

Type species: *Scelolanka besucheti* sp. n.

Body with adpressed pubescence above. Head with a deep groove above and internal to eye. Antennae filiform, with slightly thickened 5 apical joints. Prothorax subcylindrical, rounded on sides and narrower than elytra, without lateral margin. Anterior margin of proepisternum straight. Elytra subcylindrical, confusedly punctured, without distinct epipleurae. Pygidium not grooved medially. Femora not toothed. Middle and hind tibiae emarginate on outer side before apex. Claws bifid.

The genus has a general appearance of *Malegia*, but in main structure it is nearest to *Scelodonta*, differing from it in elytra confusely punctured, epipleurae absent, body smaller and more elongate.

Scelolanka besucheti sp. nov.

Body cupreous, labrum, antennae and legs fulvous, apices of antennae and tarsi infuscate, upperside with white and brown hairs.

Clypeus with a semicircular emargination in the middle, antennal grooves delimited from the clypeus with sharp angulate ridge. Front with a central groove. Surface of head with large flat punctures divided with very narrow interspaces and covered with white hairs. Prothorax as wide as long, even, with rounded lateral margins, densely punctured, punctures large and flat. Elytra broader as prothorax, slightly widened behind, with prominent humeri and shallow transverse depression behind scutellum. The punctures of elytra dense, but not so sharp as compared with prothorax. Pygidium partly exposed, flat, rounded apically. Length 3,2-3,3 mm., breadth 1,7-1,8 mm.

North Central: Ambagaswewa, 3. II. 1970, holotype and paratype.

Chrysolina templetoni Baly.

Central: Pidurutalagala, 2200 m., 29. I. 1970, 1. spec

Trichomimastra kandyensis Maulik (comb. n.)

Central: Kandy, 700 m., 14. II. 1970. 1 spec.

The only female has the body smaller (5 mm.) and hairs of upperside more short and sparse as compared with typical series described by Maulik.

Calomicrus ceylonicus sp. nov. (fig. 1, 2)

Reddish fulvous, apical joints of antennae slightly darker. Head impunctate, interantennal carina rather narrow and convex, frontal tubercles distinct, delimited behind with a transverse groove. Antenna $^3/_5$ as long as a body, segment 1 elongate; 2 about $^1/_3$ as long as 1; 3 a little longer as 2; 4 twice as long as 2 (Fig. 1). Prothorax 1, 4 times as broad as long, all margins distinctly arched, surface very even, shining and boldly punctured. Elytra elongate ovate, rather convex, strongly punctured. Hind tarsal segment 1 a little longer as segments 2 and 3 combined (fig. 2). Claws with a strong tooth. Length 3 mm., breadth 1,4 mm.

Differs well from all South Asian species of *Calomicrus* in uniformly fulvous coloration and even, strongly punctured upperside.

North Central: Medanachchiya, 6. II. 1970, 1 female-holotype.

Monolepta signata Ol.

Central: Maha Oya, 11. II. 1970, 1 spec.

Monolepta undulatovittata Motsch.

Southern: Tissamaharama, 23. I. 1970, 2. spec

Paraluperodes suturalis Motsch.

Uva: Inginiyagala, 12. II. 1970, 3 spec.; Eastern: Kantalai, 2. II. 1970, 1 spec.

Haplosaenidea mussardi sp. nov.

Metallic green with aeneous lustre, anterior part of head, antennae, legs and abdomen flavous, apical part of antennae more or less infuscated.

Interantennal carina short, rather wide, with a few small puctures, frontal tubercles even, shining, sharply limited, vertex alutaceous, sparsely punctured. Prothorax subquadrate, narrowed posteriorly, with straight lateral margins; surface even, with very distinct depressions, strongly and densely punctured, with alutaceous interspaces. Elytra almost parallel, elongate, 2 times as long as broad, very strongly rugosely punctured and finely alutaceous. Epipleura without punctures. Hind tarsal segment 1 cylindrical, as long as segments 2 and 3 combined; segment 2 triangular. Length 3,3 mm., breadth 1,2 mm.,

This species seems to be nearest to *H. flavilabris* Jac. from South India, differs in having venter flavous, prothorax more strongly punctured, epipleura not rugose etc.

Central: Nuwara Eliya, 1800-1950 m., 15. II. 1970, 1 female-holotype.

Dercetina pallida All.

Sabaragawuma: Kalawana, 20. I. 1970, 1 spec.

Nisotra badia Har.

Sabaragamuwa: Kegalla, 14. I. 1970, 1 spec.

The specimens which I had cited as *Podagrica ceylonensis* Jack (*Ent. Arb. Mus. Frey*, 1972, p. 185) must be referred also to *Nisotra badia* Har.

Amphimela mouhoti Chap.

North central: Medawachchiya, 6. II. 1970, 1 spec.

Livolia minuta Jac.

Central: Hatton, 1400 m., 9. II. 1970, 2 spec.

Livolia loebli sp. nov. (fig. 3, 5)

Dark brown, basal segments of antennae, labrum and legs a little lighter.

Head without punctures, with 14 long hairs. Frons with oblique sharp frontal furrows, without frontal tubercles (fig. 3). Prothorax 1,3 times as broad as long, narrowed behind, with maximal breadth just before apex; lateral margins almost straight, very feebly serrate (fig. 5). Surface with strong dense punctures and deep basal groove; intersticies narrow, convex, shining. Elytral rows confuse in basal part near scutellum, erect hairs very sparse. Length 1,6-1,8 mm., breadth 0,5-0,7 mm.

This species very similar at *L. minuta* Jac., but differs well in quite other structure of head (fig. 3, 4), absence of frontal tubercles, different shape of prothorax (fig. 5, 6), dark coloration and larger body.

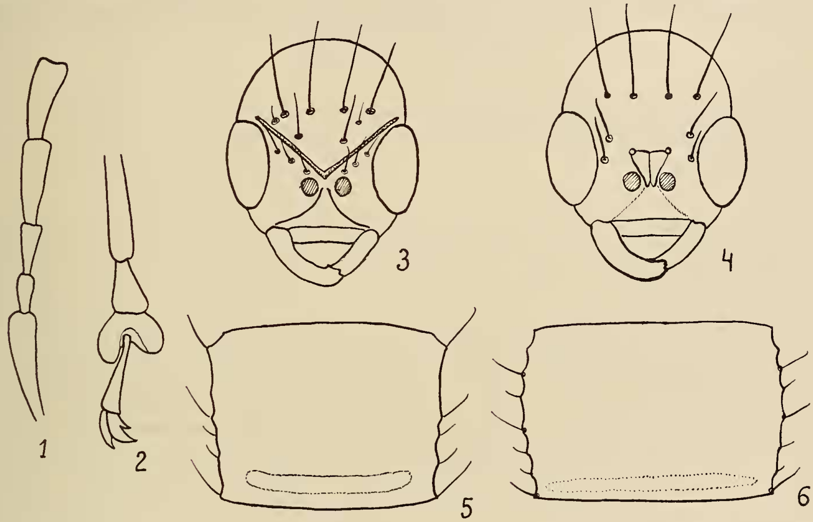

FIG. 1. *Calomicrus ceylonicus* n. sp., antennal joints 1-5; FIG. 2. *Calomicrus ceylonicus* n. sp., hind tarsus; FIG. 3. *Livolia loebli* n. sp., head; FIG. 4. *Livolia minuta* Jac., head; FIG. 5. *Livolia loebli* n. sp., prothorax; FIG. 6. *Livolia minuta* Jac., prothorax.

Central: Hakgala, 1700-1800 m., 28. I. 1970, holotype and 2 paratype; Pidurutalagala, 2500 m., 29. I. 1970, 12 paratypes.

Amblispa laevigata Guer.

Central: Pidurutalagala, 2200 m., 29. I. 1970; Horton Plains, 2100 m., 15. II. 1970. Total 6 spec.

Dactylispa haeckeli Gestro

Northern: Madhu Road, 5. II. 1970; Puliyan Kulam, 6. II. 1970; Central: Kandy, 700 m., 14. II. 1970. Total 3 spec.

Laccoptera quatuordecimnotata Boh.

Central: Nalanda, 17. I. 1970, 1 spec.

Cassida nilgirica Spaeth.

Eastern: Kantalai, 2. II. 1970, 1 spec.

SUMMARY

Scelolanka besucheti nov. gen. n. sp., *Calomicrus ceylonicus* n. sp., *Haplosaenidea mussardi* n. sp., and *Livolia loebli* n. sp. are described and partly figured.

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